

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A distal protection device, comprising:

- a sheath;
- a guidewire having a proximal end and a distal end, wherein at least a portion of the guidewire passes through the sheath;
- a filter coupled to the guidewire; and
- a tapered docking member coupled to the guidewire distally of the filter, the docking member including a channel adapted to receive a portion of the filter therein.

23. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the filter includes a plurality of openings for fluid flow therethrough.

24. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, further comprising a tapered frame coupled to the filter.

25. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 24, wherein the frame includes a mouth adapted to operate between an expanded profile and a collapsible profile.

26. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 25, further comprising a rib having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end is coupled to the guidewire and the second end is coupled to the mouth.

27. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 25, wherein the mouth is biased to be in the expanded profile.

28. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member is tapered.

29. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member is rigidly coupled to the guidewire.

30. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 22, wherein the docking member is detachably coupled to the guidewire.

31-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The distal protection device in accordance with claim [[32]] 22, wherein at least a portion of the tapered docking member is disposed within the sheath.

34. (Currently Amended) A distal protection device, comprising:

a sheath;
a guidewire, wherein at least a portion of the guidewire passes through the sheath;
a filter having a plurality of openings;
a tapered frame coupled to the filter, the frame including a mouth;
a rib having a first end and a second end;
wherein the first end is coupled to the guidewire and the second end is coupled to the mouth; and
a tapered docking member coupled to the guidewire, the docking member including a channel adapted to receive a portion of the filter therein.

35. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the mouth is adapted to operate between an expanded profile and a collapsible profile.

36. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 35, wherein the mouth is biased to be in the expanded profile.

37. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member is tapered.

38. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member is rigidly coupled to the guidewire.

39. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein the docking member is detachably coupled to the guidewire.

40-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 34, wherein at least a portion of the docking member is disposed within the sheath.

43. (Currently Amended) A distal protection device, comprising:
a sheath;
a guidewire, wherein at least a portion of the guidewire passes through at least a portion of the sheath;

a filter having a proximal end and a distal end, where both the proximal end and the distal end are slidably connected to the guidewire;
a filter advancing member slidable relative to the guidewire and having a distal end and proximal end, the filter being engaged with the filter advancing member proximal the distal end of the filter engaging member; and
a stop coupled to the guidewire.

44. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the filter includes mouth adapted to operate between an expanded profile and a collapsible profile.

45. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 44, wherein the mouth is biased to be in the expanded profile.

46. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the stop is tapered.

47. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the stop is rigidly coupled to the guidewire.

48. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the stop is detachably coupled to the guidewire.

49. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the stop further comprises a channel.

50. (Previously Presented) The distal protection device in accordance with claim 49, wherein a portion of the filter may be disposed within the channel.